

# Cohasset Mariner

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## Editorial

### Murray's Departure

Selectman Mary Jeanette Murray is the Harry Truman of Cohasset.

Okay, gulp. But before you tell us to go soak our head in a bucket of ink, consider, despite their obvious political differences, that Mr. Truman and Mrs. Murray share(d) an ability to make decisions. And in an era of politicians who choose to waffle when the buck stops their way, the ability to decide is a most admirable trait.

This week, Mrs. Murray, the warm, affable public servant who's helped to run Cohasset for the past nine years, announced she will not seek a fourth term on the Board of Selectmen. As a fixture around town hall, and as someone who managed to bring humor and spirit to the business of governing, she will be missed.

Her decision not to return is probably the right one, however. As the state representative from a larger and substantially more populated district, she will be required to spend more time at the State House. With a smaller House of Representatives than existed two years ago, the business of legislating has emerged more and more as a full-time occupation. For Mrs. Murray to do the right kind of job, she cannot be a town father (oh, all right, town mother) as well.

In any case, she won't become a stranger. State representatives who wish to remain state representatives seldom try to separate themselves from their constituents. We expect Mrs. Murray will remain very much a part of Cohasset, even if she no longer occupies a special seat in town hall where she can give Arthur and Henry the business.

We wish her continued success on **The Hill**, and from this vantage, we can say without equivocation that she will be missed.



Looking up to the Unitarian Church.

## On Conservation

By Gilbert Tower

The writer is locking horns with the Conservation Commission in the matter of recording the town's vote of 1961 which established the Conservation Commission. I was trying to explain it to a dear friend, when she mentioned that she felt favorably towards the Conservation Commission. My reaction was that there must be something wrong somewhere in her understanding of it, and what could it be? It has occurred to me that the word "conservation" has an emotional appeal to people. It sounds like rescuing something important or valuable from ruthless destruction. Of course none of us want that.

### Commentary

The Conservation Commission is an altogether different thing. The meaning of the Conservation Commission is given in an Act of the Legislature. That Act snatches away power assigned by law to the Planning Board and gives it to the Conservation Commission. Also that legislation takes from the Town Meeting its power to determine what uses should be permitted for lands in the town. Furthermore the law provides for the appointment by the Selectmen of Conservation Commission members. Therefore Evelyn Murphy claimed that the

Commission's actions had the approval of the Town, which they do not have. It is all very involved and complicated. The net result is that regular Town Government procedures have been upset and thrown into some confusion.

The Conservation Commission Act of the Legislature was without a doubt the handiwork of Arthur W. Brownell Jr., former Commissioner of Natural Resources. His purpose was to set up the Conservation Commission to support his policies and principles. His philosophy was expounded in a propaganda document entitled **Massachusetts Coastal Wetlands**. That Brownell proclamation is a bundle of false premises, ille-

(turn to page 5)

## Intermittents Ruled O.K.

Attorney Charles Humphreys ruled last week that the town has a right to work a full-time intermittent police officer on a regular shift.

Two weeks ago, the police association charged that an article of the collective bargaining contract had been

violated. They claimed that a permanent intermittent officer, Frederick Grassie, had been filling in a full-time shift

that should have been considered overtime for regular officers.

Humphreys found that the article which deals with overtime, does not preclude the assignment of an intermittent patrolman to shift openings within the police department. "The practice of using intermittent patrolmen is one of long standing in the Town of Cohasset. If the Police Association desires to change

the interpretation and treatment of matters within the department, they have the burden to negotiate such changes in subsequent contracts," Humphreys stated.

The assignment of an individual to a shift vacancy is not overtime, per se, Humphreys continued. "The assignment of a work force and the determination of shifts has been, and shall continue to be, solely a management prerogative," he concluded.

## Around Town Hall

### OFFICERS COMMENDED

Selectmen commended the following officers for their part in the recovery of stolen goods found in a Margin Street apartment: Patrolmen Laugelle, Kealy and Feola; Auxiliary Police Officers Andrews, Yocum and Ainslie; Lt. Stockbridge; and Scituate Police Officer Damon.

### INSURANCE PLAN

Jack Skala, insurance representative from MacIntyre, Fay and Thayer Insurance Co., repropoed an insurance plan for both full-time and call firefighters. The plan would provide coverage for accidental death or loss of limb, accidents, disability pay for up to a year.

### OFFICER RESIGNS

Selectmen accepted this week the resignation of permanent intermittent officer William McKenna of



Weymouth.

### HARBOR ARTICLES

The townspeople will turn much attention to the harbor this spring as four articles wend their way to consideration on the Town Meeting floor:

The Harbor Study Committee will ask the town to appropriate \$5,000 for the town's share in conjunction

with a grant from Coastal Zone Management, to provide a study for harbor maintenance.

They will also seek to appropriate a sum of \$20,000 for a stabilization fund for harbor maintenance and dredging.

Selectmen will submit a third article to appropriate \$36,000 for the town's share of a federal project to remove areas of ledge rock in the harbor. Included in the article will be the request that \$15,000 left over from the last dredging by the Army Corps of Engineers be earmarked for the blasting project.

Harbormaster Harry Ritter intends to ask that \$15,000 be appropriated to rehabilitate the seawalls around the perimeter of the harbor by sandblasting, chinking and guniting.

## Charges Dropped Against Magee

Contempt charges against Chester Magee of Beechwood Street were dropped last week when he agreed to abide by a previous court order to remove exterior sales displays from his residence.

A stipulation entered by Norfolk Superior Court outlined the agreement which will become effective March 3. Magee will have to abide by a Sept. 1976 court order to cease and desist from displaying inventory and supply materials used in conjunction with his business, Magee Sales and Ser-

vices, at his residentially-zoned home.

Magee further agreed to comply in all respects with the town zoning bylaws in connection with the use of a portion of his property as a workshop

for his lawn mower and snow blower business. The stipulation also states that he is not to alter his property's residential appearance with advertising, signs or other devices.

### Don't Move — Improve!

If you really don't want to move, improve your present home. Check our Service Directory to find local businesses to help you improve your home.